

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

My name is Jeff Gerhardt and I am the CEO and president of IbssNet.Com in Naperville, IL.

I started my business in 1995. Ibss has helped develop a number of successful Internet businesses, including WorldWide Access, which at the time of its sale to Verio was the largest regional provider (ISP) in the Midwest.

I am a member of my local business community. I go to Church here, I am a member of the Chamber of Commerce, I am a member of the Rotary Club. I am a active member of the human eco system of personal and business relationships. Sadly, all across the nation, ISPs like mine are about to become extinct, and to no action of their own. Our businesses and our industry are dying a premature death.

Sadly still in some measure the fault lies with the FCC.

Since WWA we (the partners of IBSS) have started a number of Internet businesses that have pushed the edge of the technological envelope for the Internet industry. Some have succeeded, some not. That is the nature of entrepreneurship.

We have been key to the innovation process. We offer many services that our local phone company, Ameritech, does not, or did not till long after we broke ground. In our region, we were the first to deploy DSL (1996), the first to offer VOIP (1999), the first to offer video security (1997) and the list goes on and on. In fact, our development work on Virtual Dial Up (based on the AT&T Software Defined Network technology) gave birth to a new era for service providers, and launched a new viable business opportunity for CLECs like Focal Communications.

This same story is repeated over and over with ISPs across the nation; they pushed innovation and they are members of their own local business eco system.

The message of this email is to open your eyes. Our businesses are in danger, and so is the very fabric of the Internet.

GEEKS BUILT THE NET. And it is time that the FCC and government start listening to us, whether we are owners of ISPs like myself, or geeks who work at companies that develop technology for the net.

YOUR (THE FCC's) ACTIONS ARE ENDANGERING THE NET.

Your present and future actions could crush what should be a vital and dynamic industry group. This is in part because of the weak enforcement of existing regulations , and your present efforts to loosen regulations.

You are not in total fault, bills Like Tauzin Dingel and the Hollings Act are equally destructive. To the point that, we in the ISP community feel that government has launched a campaign for our destruction.

The two key issues of the time driving this is

Sincerely,

Jeff Gerhardt
1286 Meyer Ct
Naperville, IL 60564